

FRIDAY, July 9, 2010:

Job 36:4 *"For truly my words are not false; one who is perfect in knowledge is with you."*

In the town I grew up in, there were (and still are), ministers who preached that wearing a necktie was a sin (along with about everything else).

I know of a preacher who was very diligent in preaching this belief. He once said that, "If you ever see me wearing a necktie, you will know that I am on my way to hell."

As the years went by he softened on his stand against wearing ties to the point that when he died, he was buried wearing a suit and tie!

I'm thankful that God is merciful and has a sense of humor! I wonder if God scared this preacher a little bit when he stood before the Golden Gate seeking entrance into Heaven by playing back his own words to him!

In our verse today, we see Elihu going a little over the top with his speech. He goes so far as to declare that his knowledge is perfect!

Yet how many times have we had to eat our own words? What seems so right and so important at one stage of our lives has a way of fading in importance as we grow older and wiser.

My advice today is to mix your advice and opinions with a little humility. What seems so perfectly clear and right today may change a little further down the road of life.

So before you begin pounding on your soapbox about what you think people ought to do, why not take them to the throne of Heaven, where the One who really is perfect in knowledge dwells and leave them in His care?

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 32:4

SATURDAY, July 10, 2010:

Job 36:24 *"Remember to magnify His work, of which men have sung."*

You're going to moan when you read this, but I like the corny story of what a speaker said after a long introduction which listed all his outstanding achievements. The speaker stood up and said, "I feel like the fly that hit the windshield; I never knew I had so much in me!"

Sorry! ☺

But you know preachers, we can find a sermon in anything and here is the lesson in today's little story...

Don't end your week on a sour note. You may have had a tough week with many challenges, frustrations and heartbreaks, but there is more in you than you realize.

Make the effort to praise God by magnifying Him. Magnify your praise bigger than your complaint.

Do you have big problems? You have a bigger God! Huge needs? You have a huger God! Bad people in your life? There is also a very good God in your life!

You get the point...

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 73:1



Pastor Kemp's Weekly Devotional

For the week of July 4, 2010

Daily Reflection Questions:

- Reflection: Of what eternal benefit was my day?
- Reflection: What eternal truth(s) did I observe today?
- Reflection: Did my behavior match my values?
- Reflection: What am I thankful for today?

What I am thankful for this week:

MONDAY: _____

TUESDAY: _____

WEDNESDAY: _____

THURSDAY: _____

FRIDAY: _____

SATURDAY: _____



MONDAY, July 5, 2010:

What's the Use of Being Good?

Job 35:3 *"For you say, 'What advantage will it be to You? What profit shall I have, more than if I had sinned?'"*

In one sense, being good doesn't affect God one bit (35:6-7). I think we forget sometimes that God doesn't really need us. He loves us and desires to be in relationship with us, but if we had never been born or if we cease to exist, God is going to continue on. So doing good is not about helping God or making God better.

However, God did create you and He did choose to give you an eternal soul. He did not do this in a vacuum; **He created you for a purpose.**

This leads to the first reason for being a good person – it is how you fulfill your purpose.

The day I am writing this devotional, I will be preaching a funeral in less than two hours. It will be the second funeral this week. There's nothing like death to help clarify things. For both of the dear men that I have been called upon to facilitate their memorial service, what really mattered to them at the end were the things connected to their purpose in God.

Fame and fortune, fun and fast living can only satisfy for so long. There comes a time when a person realizes that something more is needed. That "something more" is being in step with your Creator's purpose for you. Until then, nothing is ever going to really make sense and bring true peace.

The thing I fear the most about this devotional is that you will agree and think that I'm writing it for someone else. Please don't do that. Take a moment and examine your own life and determine if you are really being good by fulfilling your purpose in life.

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 1:32-33

TUESDAY, July 6, 2010:

What's the Use of Being Good?

Job 35:3 *"For you say, 'What advantage will it be to You? What profit shall I have, more than if I had sinned?'"*

Job 35:8 *"Your wickedness affects a man..."*

Yesterday we learned that one of the motivations for "being good" is because fulfilling our purpose in life requires it.

Today we discover another reason for being good – our actions affect the lives of others. We do not live in a vacuum; everything we do affects someone else. Every time we take a bite we are eating food that someone else could have eaten. Every time we coast, someone else has to pick up the slack. Like throwing a pebble in a pond, our actions create ripples that wash up on the shore of other peoples' lives; many whom we will never meet, but also many of whom we love and hold dear.

St. Paul wrote that there are three things that will last – "Faith, Hope and Love." And he reminded us that the greatest of these is love.

Above all, there are people that you love dearly who are affected by your decisions and deeds. If for no other reason, be good for love's sake.

SCRIPTURE: I Cor. 13:1-3

WEDNESDAY, July 7, 2010:

Job 35:10 *"...who gives songs in the night."*

This verse brings comfort to me. One of the ways that I find comfort and strength is by sitting at my piano and simply letting my prayers and emotions flow through my fingers. Most evenings I will take a few moments to sit at the piano in the dark and have a few moments of reflection time with myself and with God.

Not everyone is musical, but everyone can have a song in the night. It may not be a song that is sung or played out on a musical instrument - the songs I am talking about are songs given to you by God.

God is not just a "day-time God" / He is a God of the night seasons as well. Maybe you are going through one of those seasons now. I encourage you to pour out your soul to God. Your song right now may be in a minor key – sad and haunting. But it will not always be that way. One day the storm shall pass, the God of night will lead you to the light and your song will turn into gladness.

In the meantime, keep singing and keep believing.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 30:4

THURSDAY, July 8, 2010:

Job 35:11 *"Who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth, and makes us wiser than the birds of heaven..."*

You've probably heard of the children in a prominent family who decided to give their father a book of the family's history for a birthday present.

They commissioned a professional biographer to do the work, carefully warning him of the family's "prodigal son" - Uncle George who had been executed in the electric chair for murder.

The biographer handled the situation with great tact:

☐ *"Uncle George occupied a chair of applied electronics at an important Government Institution. He was attached to his position by the strongest ties, and his death came as a real shock."*

While this family tried hard to put the best light on "Uncle George," it seems just the opposite most of the time. We are constantly told we are nothing more than evolved animals, captive to our instincts and impulses.

But I want to remind you that you are created by God, in his image, which makes you far more advanced than the animals.

I encourage you to believe in yourself today. Seek that which is noble and honorable. Treat yourself and those around you with the respect due someone made by Divinity for a divine purpose.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 8:4-6